



**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE
HOUSE ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE**

January 9, 2024

In Support

HB 2144 Providing for a deposit return program for qualifying beverage containers to be implemented by a distributor responsibility organization.

Representative Doglio and honorable members of the Environment and Energy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2144.

My name is Liz Donohue, and I am the Director of Government Relations for BlueTriton Brands where we are working hard to build a better water company through industry-leading water stewardship, advancing healthy hydration, and reducing our environmental impact. We understand the challenges in protecting water sources and providing sustainably sourced and responsibly packaged water. Our business includes a 175-year legacy of trusted brands including the Arrowhead® Brand, and our home and office delivery service ReadyRefresh®. We honor the dignity and hard work of our approximately 7000 employees and strive to be fiercely good to the communities we operate in.

At BlueTriton we are working to minimize our environmental impact through more sustainable packaging, incorporating more recycled materials into packaging, and establishing more effective recycling systems.

In 2023, approximately 27% of plastic PET bottles were made from recycled plastic – which is twice the industry average. Last year we introduced 100% recycled plastic 700mL and 1L bottles also. We use PET bottles because they are lighter to transport, result in lower emissions and use less water in the manufacturing process. By 2025, all BlueTriton products will be in packaging that is either reusable or made from an average of 35% recycled materials.

BlueTriton is working to foster a dynamic circular economy where bottles are recycled directly into bottles, ever-increasing the recycled content in our portfolio. But we can't create a circular economy or generate more recycled feedstock on our own. Improved recycling by Washington residents will be key to the effort to foster a circular economy and bottle to bottle recycling.

All bottles need to be returned in an effective way to avoid yield loss in the recycling process. We support the adoption of a smart and well-designed deposit return or recycling refund policy that establishes an effective system optimized to achieve high return rates and bottle to bottle recycling. One that is convenient, industry-led, and transparent & accountable – exactly what HB 2144 offers.

Despite being a leader on sustainability policy, Washington lags its neighbors on bottle recycling. HB 2144 presents an opportunity to change that. Washington can be the leader of policy harmonization and help catapult us towards a circular economy with passage of HB 2144.

Thank you.



BLUETRITON

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